

hastily together for Mr. Liston when he performed the first capital operation in this country without a sign even of pain." Illustrations of the apparatus are also published in the same place. Dr. Francis Boott (the London Medical Directory for 1846 misprinted his name as "Francis Booth." His name was really Boott) communicated to THE LANCET of Jan. 2nd, 1847, p. 5 *et seq.*, copies of papers and letters relating to "Surgical Operations Performed During Insensibility." In Dr. Boott's letter, on p. 8, he mentions the extraction of a tooth on Dec. 19th, 1846, by a Mr. Robinson (not *Robertson*), and he also includes a copy of a letter from Mr. Robert Liston to himself, which is dated Dec. 21st, 1846, and commences "I tried the ether inhalation to-day in a case of amputation of the thigh, and in another requiring evulsion of both sides of the great toe-nail." This confirms Dr. Cock's supposition that Mr. Ransome, the house surgeon, gave the date of the operation wrongly as "Friday, December 18th, 1846, at 2 o'clock."—ED. L.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL AND MEDICAL FEES FOR SCHOOL ACCIDENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have to inform you that the Council has recently had under consideration the question of fees to be paid for the first medical attendance on children who meet with accidents in public elementary schools, and has adopted the following scale, which will come into operation as from 1st December, 1910 :—

(a) In the case of a child who meets with an accident in the school and who is taken to a doctor's surgery, 3s. 6d.

(b) In the case where a doctor is summoned to the school to attend a child, 5s.

Claims in excess of these amounts will, if there are exceptional circumstances, receive special consideration. These fees will be paid by the Council for the first attendance only.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. L. GOMME,

Clerk of the Council.

County Hall, Spring gardens, S.W., Nov. 9th, 1910.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Manchester Crematorium.

It is now eight years since the Manchester Crematorium was opened, and during this period 1428 cremations have taken place. In the 12 months ending on August 31st last there were 110 cremations. Some of the subjects were from Manchester and the neighbourhood, but 15 places outside Manchester helped to make up the total. Among these were several of the Lancashire towns and places so far distant as Edinburgh, Penmaenmawr, Macclesfield, Stoke-on-Trent, Aysgarth in Yorkshire, and others. The directors in the annual report urge the need for propaganda in favour of cremation—"as there is still a considerable amount of prejudice and indifference to be overcome." In the course of his speech, Mr. Gustav Eckhard, presiding at the annual meeting of the Manchester Crematorium, Limited, mentioned the fact that many famous men had been cremated during the last 12 months, and touched also on the religious question connected with cremation. He combated the notion that it was an irreverent method of disposing of the dead, and said that "three successive holders of the see of Manchester—Bishops Fraser, Moorhouse, and Knox—had expressed themselves in favour of cremation as a means of disposal of the dead. There are, no doubt, advantages and disadvantages in all modes of putting the dead out of our sight, but in the case of pestilence, infection, or the slaughter of the battlefield, there is no better method of dealing with human remains than that of cremation.

Still, there does exist a sentiment, not easily to be overcome, in favour of earth burial, and it will linger as long as England has country churchyards.

A Slot Meter Danger.

Penny-in-the-slot gas-meters are much used by the working classes in our large towns, and usually without accident. A few days ago, however, four children at Stockport had a narrow escape from being asphyxiated from one being used. During the night the supply of gas became exhausted and one of the daughters, before going to work in the morning, put a penny in the slot, not knowing that a light had been left burning in the room where the children were sleeping. The light having gone out, the gas of course escaped into the room, and when the occurrence was discovered, owing to the moaning of the children, they were found to be unconscious. One had to be taken to the infirmary, but happily all recovered in the course of a few hours. It is, perhaps, a wonder that such an accident is not of more frequent occurrence where a penny is put into the "slot" or gas turned on at the meter. At all events, it points to the desirability of seeing to it that no gas taps are left turned on.

Treating Consumption.

The old Chorlton Union Board of Guardians is now called the South Manchester Township Board, and the subject of provision for consumptive cases came under discussion at the last meeting. The board seems to be in earnest as to building a sanatorium, the chairman saying that as the result of advertising numerous sites could be obtained. A letter was read from the sanitary committee of the city council, suggesting an interview with the board on the subject of the treatment of consumptive cases. The feeling on the board seemed to be in favour of proceeding with its own scheme, whatever the corporation might do, as its own efforts and the corporation's would not for a long period meet the demand. There are said to be 5000 or even 6000 cases in Manchester supposed to be curable, the provision for which may well tax all the efforts of the guardians, the corporation, and of private benevolence to deal with, more especially if it is remembered that the father or the mother of the family may be the victim. One of the medical members of the board remarked that "the guardians must deal with the poor, for the corporation would only deal with the lower middle or upper working classes."

The Asylum Difficulty.

The crowded state of the asylums and the consequent detention of dangerous lunatics in workhouses where there is no suitable or sufficient provision for the safe care of such patients is often a topic at meetings of our boards of guardians. At the last meeting of the Prestwich board the clerk drew attention to this "vexed problem of long standing." There were at the time two men in the workhouse certified as fit cases for the asylum, and one of them had just committed two assaults. He (the clerk) had written to the authorities at Winwick, Lancaster, and Prestwich, and the reply from each had been that there was no room for additional male patients. He said "it was a most serious matter, and the workhouse master was having an anxious time of it." The clerk was instructed to write to the Asylums Board in the strongest possible terms in regard to the difficulty. The increase of insanity is a grave national danger.

Cotton Districts Convalescent Fund.

The annual meeting of the governors of the above-named fund, reminding many of the hard times of the Lancashire cotton famine resulting from the American war of North and South, was held on Oct. 28th. Its work, begun nearly 40 years ago, still goes on, for during the nine months ending Sept. 30th 1512 patients were sent to the convalescent hospitals at Southport, Buxton, and Cheadle at a cost of £4209. In the corresponding period of last year 2374 patients were sent at a cost of £4093.

Nov. 8th.

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD.—The Council at its last meeting appointed Mr. Archibald W. Cuff, F.R.C.S. Eng., to the post of Lecturer on Practical Surgery.